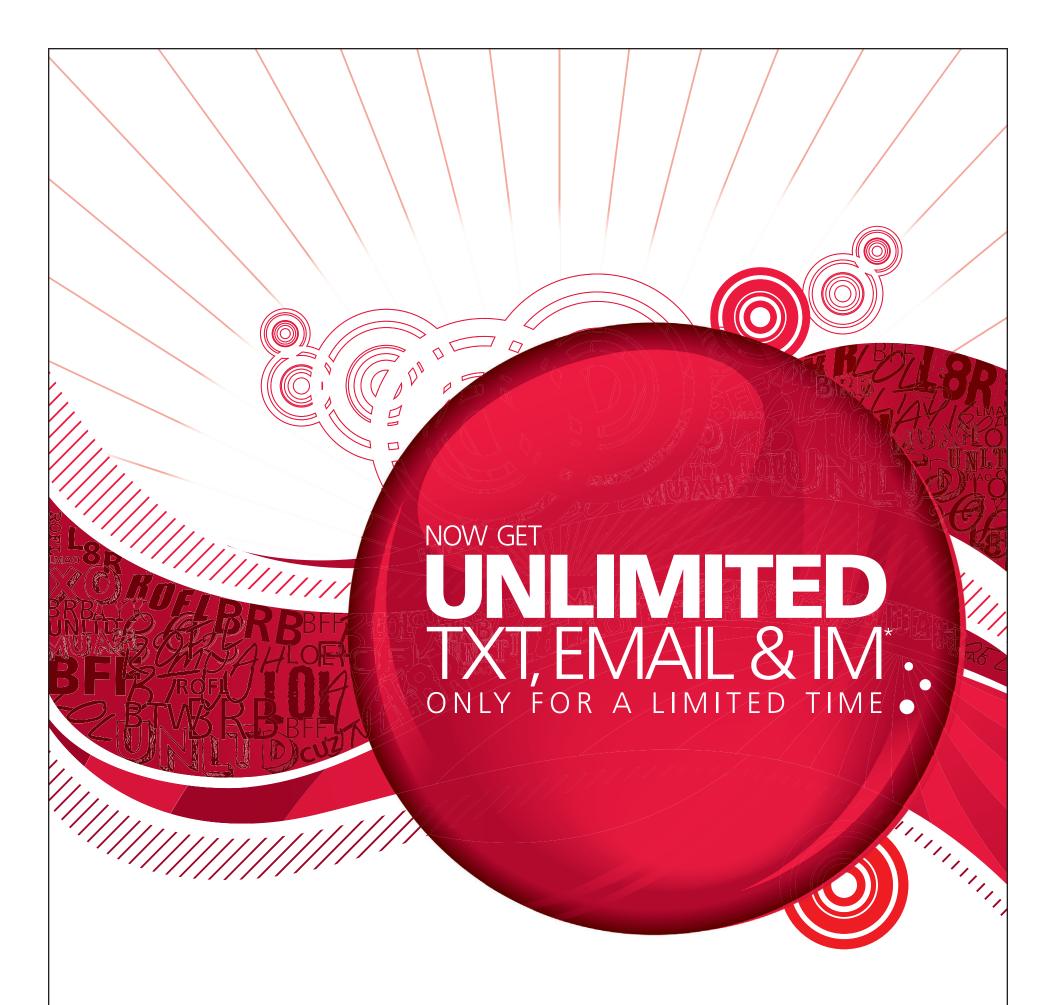


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TOYOTA DEALERS POST RECORD YEAR, PG 7



wrestling steroids scanda pq 18



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Police looking into death of 5-year-old girl

CARDIAC ARREST Police are waiting to hear from a medical examiner today to find out if a young girl who died in a west-end home yesterday morning was a victim of foul play.

City cops were called to the home at 167 Street and 81 Avenue after the five-year-old girl was found in her bedroom sometime before 8:30 a.m. Police say paramedics noticed the girl was in "cardiac arrest."

Police say four children, one infant and the girl's two guardians were removed from the home and investigators are still trying to figure out the circumstances that led to the girl's death.

METRO EDMONTON



New dance at Detroit show

Canada pg 3

EnCana offers \$500K for info



Take a tour of Obama's Chicago

Washington Canadian military honoured



Canadian Air Force Sqt. Mike Swinimer, from left, Canadian Army Master Cpl. James Collier and Canadian Navy petty officer (first class) Bob Pellerin present the colours during the playing of national anthems before the Edmonton Oilers and Washington Capitals game last night in Washington. The Capitals set aside tickets for 150 members of the Canadian military and their families. Game story, page 8.

The West wants in

Stelmach asks for 'equal help' after \$4B auto bailout for Ontario

JEFF CUMMINGS jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

The premier of Canada's richest province says he wants Ottawa to "pay attention" to its ailing forestry and energy sectors after the federal government handed \$4 billion to Ontario's struggling auto industry.

"Please pay attention to the needs of the West," said Premier Ed Stelmach about what he plans to tell Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the First Minister's meeting in Ottawa Friday.

Stelmach said the current struggles of the oil and gas

"We have been contributing significantly to equalization ... (but) there will be a significant net loss of revenue going to Ottawa from Alberta, and indeed from the West."

industry could force companies to cut corporate jobs and the province's agriculture and forestry sectors 'will be under a lot of pressure" because of current "trade barriers" that will put more jobs at risk.

And if there is no "equal help" from Ottawa, Stelmach said Canadian families will not go out and buy new vehicles, something that could help Canada's Premier Ed Stelmach

auto industry from sinking. "We have been contributing significantly to equalization ... (but) there will be a significant net loss of revenue going to Ottawa from Alberta, and indeed from the West," said Stelmach during a media scrum with reporters yesterday.

of the "All provinces that have been looking to Ottawa for help to create some sort of stim-

ulus package have to keep that in mind."

metronews.ca

The premier, however, fell short of suggesting that Alberta's energy industry should get a bailout, similar to what was given to Canada's auto industry.

Oil settled higher at \$37.78 per barrel yesterday, buoyed by chilly weather in the United States and indications of deep production cuts by Saudi Arabia.

Oil has fallen from a peak price above \$147 per barrel reached in July.

The premier will be in Toronto today to deliver a "national unity address" to the C.D. Howe Institute.

WITH FILES FROM REUTERS

Bylaw will sit idle until next week

JEFF CUMMINGS jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

BYLAW Edmonton city council will decide next Wednesday on whether or not to push a controversial bylaw that will fine motorists \$250 for idling their vehicles for more than three minutes.

The city's transportation committee decided yesterday to push the issue forward to city council without any recommendations for or against the plan after hearing from dozens of speakers in favour of the bylaw that will be enforced by citizens snitching on drivers who idle.

Students from a junior high school, environmentalists, doctors and private citizens all told councillors that an idling bylaw would "change

behaviours" in Edmonton. "This is all complaint driven, it puts neighbour against neighbour and that's the only way it's going to be enforced," said Coun. Tony Caterina to reporters. "Whether it stands up in a court of law, I don't believe it would."

Coun. Ben Henderson said an anti-idling bylaw would be in the "best interest of the city.'

Motorists are allowed under the proposed bylaw to let their vehicles idle for longer than three minutes in frigid weather like what's been seen in Edmonton in recent weeks, but no limits have been set on how long it can be left running when temperatures are colder than -10 C.

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Expect warmer weather

Environment Canada predicts temperatures will rise above freezing tomorrow. Temps are expected to rise to 4 C on Friday, and warm temperatures will continue through the weekend, a trend that Edmontonians haven't seen since the beginning of December. METRO EDMONTON

Local



Anderson to be honoured

Jan. 16 will soon be proclaimed Glenn Anderson, left, day. The official jersey retirement party for the Hockey Hall of Famer will be held Friday at City Hall. Edmontonians are encouraged to come out and wear Oilers gear, and participate in a draw for two tickets to the Oilers home game on Sunday, where Anderson's jersey will be officially retired.

Pawn shops will still collect info

RULING Pawn shops will keep collecting personal information from customers and hand it over to city police, a judge ruled yesterday.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Joanna Veit stated the decision was overturned because it would have interfered with the city's ability to police pawn shops.

Because the city and police appealed the decision, the policy remained in effect. No existing information about customers was ever destroyed.

METRO EDMONTON

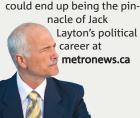
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Video Planned Gitmo shutdown raises questions about Omar Khadr's future at metronews.ca/canada Video EnCana offers \$500,000 reward for information on pipeline bombings at

metronews.ca/canada Comment An Obama administration will change little about U.S. policy in Gaza at metronews.ca/columns **Political Stripes** 2008



Missionaries give hope

Rise in homeless population has caused more requests

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

Missionaries patrolling Edmonton's inner-city streets are extending their reach, as the homeless population continues to overflow into suburban ar-

Edmonton's largest organization to aid the homeless, Hope Mission, dispatches missionary vans out into the city's roughest areas, passing out food, hot drinks, blankets, clothing, and a helping hand to those who need a place to sleep.

"We have had increased requests, and people out there are in much more desperate need than they been," have said spokesman Peter Gerber.

Since temperatures took a nose-dive in the weeks before Christmas, van drivers are continually tipped off about more campsites set up in unlikely areas, like South Edmonton Common. Gerber attributes the no-

Ed Madge hands a bag lunch from the Hope Mission ministry van to a homeless man yesterday af-

ternoon in downtown Edmonton. The ministry van has been in operation for six years, handing out food, warm drinks, and warm clothes to those in need.

madic behaviour to competition between desperate panhandlers in higher density areas, which serve as a setting for increased levels of violence. "If you go downtown and are competing with 20 people, you could instead go down to South Common where there's hardly anyone," he

While Edmonton's homeless have been known to set up camp in commercial or residential areas in the past, the trend has increased in the last few years, with the rise in population and lack of affordable housing, Gerber said. Officials expect the retired ambulances will be perpetually rolling, as temperatures hold steady. The vans served over 1,500 homeless Edmontonians in December.

"You can ask anyone out on the street, the Hope Mission ministry van is something that is known to people," Gerber said.

dozens

CHARGES Police have seized dozens of guns and over 10,000 rounds of ammunition and charged a man after a gun was allegedly pointed at paramedics last week.

A search warrant was executed, after an incident on Friday, when a man allegedly pulled a handgun on paramedics.

A warrant was executed on a south side home, where police found 30 guns and 12,000 rounds of ammunition.

Most of the guns were registered.

Shawn Patrick Fahy, 25, has been charged with a list of weapons related offences.

METRO EDMONTON

10-year-old recovering after being hit by car

ACCIDENT A 10-year-old boy in Leduc is recovering from serious injuries after he was hit by a car on Friday morning.

The boy was hit by a Pontiac Montana, travelling west on Black Gold Drive at a slow rate of speed around 8:30 a.m.

The child was not at a cross walk at the time of the accident.

The 49-year-old male driver from Calgary will not be facing charges.

METRO EDMONTON

Police searching for robbery suspect

JEFF CUMMINGS jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

City cops are asking for the public's help in catching a man who held up three banks all within the last

Police allege the suspect was responsible for a robbery at a TD Bank near Groat Road and 112 Avenue just before 8 p.m. last Friday and another TD bank on 11 Avenue and 163 Street around 11 a.m. the next morning.

The most recent robbery happened around 1:15 p.m. on Monday at an Alberta Treasury Branch near 155 Street and Stony Plain Road.

Police say in all three robberies, the suspect allegedly entered the bank and passed a note to the



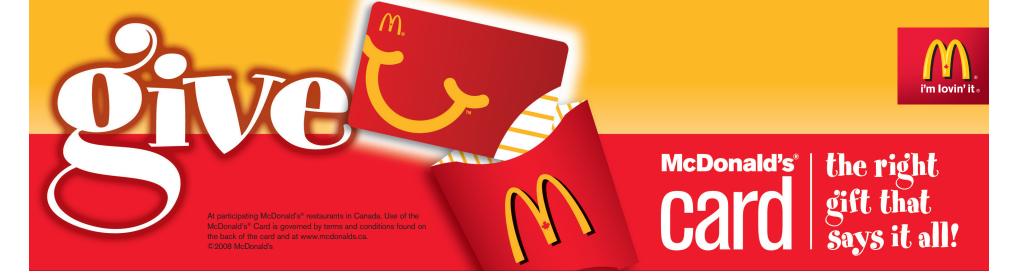
Suspect in bank robberies.

teller explaining he had a gun and was demanding

The suspect is described as a white, five-foot-eight to six-foot-tall male between 35 and 45 years old. He is described as wear-

ing black-framed glasses, police believe he shaved off his goatee between the second and third robberies.

Police have also released surveillance pictures of the suspect.



The company that makes the Stork Craft line of baby cribs is voluntarily recalling more than one million of them because of a potential suffocation hazard, authorities said yesterday. The cribs were made by B.C.-based Stork Craft Manufacturing Inc. and were sold at major retailers starting in May 2000. REUTERS

Canada



Court hears abortion appeal

The outcome of Henry Morgentaler's latest fight to force the New Brunswick government to pay for the costs of abortions at his Fredericton clinic is now in the hands of the province's Court of Appeal. A hearing concluded yesterday afternoon with the three judges reserving decision on the controversial case.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Jewish Congress says protests showed hatred

CONFLICT Today the Canadian Jewish Congress will release video footage it says will "expose incidents of incitement to hatred and violence" by demonstrators at several re-

Response

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cent pro-Palestinian rallies held in cities across the country

"We are going to be highlighting some of night as "fear the hateful and vile

civility."

comments demonizing Iews and Israelis at these demonstrations, including calls for the murder of Jewish children and incitements of genocide," said Bernie Farber, executive director of the CJC. "There are expectations that even when we demonstrate ... we do so with respect and

CUPE leader softens boycott stance

ONTARIO Outspoken Ontario labour leader Sid Rvan has softened his stance on banning Israeli academics who won't condemn Israel's Gaza attacks amid denunciation from critics, including his own union's national president.

On Jan. 2, Ryan, head of the provincial office of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, said in a news release "... we are ready to say Israeli academics should not be on our campuses unless they explicitly condemn the (Islamic) university bombing and the assault on Gaza in general."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Military trucks to be built in U.S.

CAW blasts Ottawa for choosing firm that laid off 500 Canadian workers

The Canadian Auto Workers yesterday criticized Ottawa for farming out jobs to the U.S. for a company that is busy laying off the workforce at its Chatham, Ont., plant.

"Somebody has to explain to us why Canadian workers can't build military trucks for the Canadian military," said senior CAW executive Ken Chernecki, referring to a defence ministry contract to Illinoisbased Navistar International Corp. to build 1,300 medium-duty trucks for the Canadian Armed Forces.

CAW officials plan to ask

"At the plant this morning, our guys were just dumbfounded; they're mad as hell."

Ken Chernecki, CAW executive

Navistar executives - already slated to meet with them today over heavy layoffs at their truck plant in Chatham — to switch the order from Garland, Tex., to their Canadian operation.

Navistar sent out 500 lavoff notices to its Chatham workforce last week, with another 200 expected in the spring. Chernecki said only 200 workers are left and the

plant's survival is at stake.

"At the plant this morning, our guys were just dumbfounded; they're mad as hell," said Chernecki. "In the face of (layoffs) over the next few months, there is no legitimate credible reason" for Ottawa's decision.

'Doesn't the government know there's a manufacturing crisis in Canada?" he

added.

Asked yesterday why the contract couldn't have stipulated the trucks be built in Canada, a spokesperson for Defence Minister Peter MacKay referred Torstar News Service to the public works ministry.

"Minister MacKay's role is to outline what equipment and platforms are needed by the Canadian Forces," the defence ministry official said, in an email. "After identifying the need, Public Works follows a competitive procurement

But the public works de-

partment referred the question to Industry Canada and - in the end — there appeared to be no answer.

Yesterday, CAW president Ken Lewenza sent a letter to MacKay, asking him to "provide the necessary leadership to invest in Canada by having these vehicles built in Canada."

But, from Warrenville, Ill., Navistar corporate spokesperson Ray Wiley said the trucks couldn't be built in Chatham, challenging Chernecki's assertion the line could accommodate the medium-duty trucks. Torstar News Service

Ottawa **ObamaTails on the canal**



Megan Blake of Almonte and Laura Buck of Ottawa, both 22, sample an ObamaTail on the Rideau Canal Skateway yesterday. The BeaverTails creation will be served at a U.S. inauguration party.

EnCana offers \$500,000 for pipeline bombing info

KRISTEN THOMPSON Metro Canada

B.C. One of the province's largest oil and gas companies yesterday promised up to \$500,000 for information leading to an arrest and prosecution in the bombings of its natural gas facilities near Dawson Creek.

EnCana pipeline locations have been targeted four times since October, with the most recent attack occurring last week at a metering shed near Tomslake.

Police have identified what they describe as "persons of interest" who have not been co-operative with investigators, but still have no suspects.

"Police know from other major crime investi**Eligibility**

 EnCana specified that anyone found to have colluded in the bombings is not eligible for the reward.

gations that when the suspect is finally arrested there will be a group of family, friends or coworkers who either knew or had (suspicions)," said RCMP Sgt. Tim Shields.

"We need the community's help to solve this crime," added Supt. Lloyde Plante, assistant criminal operations officer for national security

Anyone with information about the bombings is asked to contact the RCMP or visit dawson creekbombings.com encana.com.

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U.S. President George W. Bush took a parting swipe at Cuba yesterday, saying it was a cruel dictatorship that had responded to appeals for democratic reform with more repression of its people. REUTERS

World



Caffeine linked to hallucinations

Hearing voices when nobody is around or seeing things that aren't there? Too much caffeine could be to blame, British researchers reported yesterday. Their study found that students who consumed more than the equivalent of seven cups of instant coffee a day were three times more likely to have had these kinds of hallucinations compared to people on a single

Israel marches on

Israel has denied Syrian al-

legations that it was re-

sponsible for traces of ura-

nium found by experts at a

Syrian site that Israel

bombed in 2007, diplomats

GAZA Israel's top general said there was still "work ahead" in the 18-day offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip yesterday, and Israeli tanks and troops edged closer to the heart of the city of Gaza.

The Palestinian death toll rose to Allegations 971, Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry said, counting some and women children among those killed. Israel

says 10 Israeli soldiers and three civilians hit by Hamas rockets have died.

The top UN aid official for Gaza appealed to the international community to protect Gaza's civilians, saying nowhere in the territory of 1.5 million people was safe any longer with the conflict becoming "a test of our humanity."

"All the people, the first thing they say to me and the last thing they say to me is, 'Please, we need protection, nowhere is safe,"

> John Ging, director of operations for the UN Relief and Works Agency, told reporters in Geneva videolink.

Explosions and heavy machine-gun fire echoed

across Gaza, a city of 500,000, after Israeli tanks moved nearer to its densely populated downtown area but did not enter, residents said. The tanks appeared to be testing how the militants reacted.



Hillary Clinton, right, smiles with her daughter Chelsea during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington to become the next U.S. secretary of state yesterday.

Mexico's Calderon leaves door open to NAFTA talks

FREE TRADE Mexican President Felipe Calderon left the door open yesterday to discussion of possible changes in the North American Free

Agreement a day after talks with U.S. presi- "We are willing dent-elect Barack Obama. The Mexican to build on the foundation of

government what the free has been concerned about Obama's camhas gained." paign promise Felipe Calderon to renegotiate

NAFTA with the United States' two partners, Mexico and Canada.

After his final White House meeting with President George W. Bush, Calderon joined his host in hailing the benefits of NAF-TA, saying it had created jobs on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border.

"We are willing to build on the foundation of what the free trade agreement Trade has gained in order to fo-

cus on improving the benefits," Calderon

NAFTA has greatly expanded Mexican trade with powerful neighbour to the north since

it went into effect in 1994, but the agreement is seen by U.S. unions as a cause of job losses in

big industrial states. Calderon said in November that restricting trade would only drive more Mexicans to cross the U.S. border illegally.

"The core of the problem is that foreign governments and entities may perceive the Clinton Foundation as a means to gain favour with the secretary of state."

Clinton questioned over charity

Husband's foundation risks conflicts of interest: Republican

Richard Lugar

publican and a centrist voice on U.S. foreign policy, said a disclosure agreement between presidentelect Barack Obama's team and the William J. Clinton Foundation did not go far enough to prevent potential conflicts of interest.

"The core of the problem is that foreign governments and entities may perceive the Clinton Foundation as a means to gain favour with the secretary of state," Lugar said.

"The only certain way to eliminate this risk going forward is for the Clinton Foundation to forswear new foreign contributions when Senator Clinton becomes secretary of state."

Clinton, who was accompanied by her daughter, Chelsea, but not her husband, listened to Lugar but did not address the matter during her confirmation hearing.

The former president's foundation has disclosed past donors, which include the governments of Saudi Arabia and Norway, and has agreed to submit future donations to a State Department ethics review and disclose donations an-

REUTERS

News in brief

CANCER Regular cellphone use does not appear to increase a person's risk of getting a type of cancer called melanoma of the eye, German researchers have written in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

GAS Russia started pumping gas meant for Europe via Ukraine yesterday for the first time in nearly a week, but the European Union said little or

no gas was flowing to countries suffering urgent energy shortages. The crisis has disrupted supplies to some 18 countries, some of them totally dependent on Russian gas.

ARCTIC All 18 crewmen were rescued but the captain died when a Russian trawler sank in Arctic waters off northern Norway yesterday, Norwegian officials said. REUTERS

Sexually transmitted diseases skyrocket in U.S.

HEALTH U.S. syphilis rates rose for a seventh year in 2007, driven by gay and bisexual men, while chlamydia reached record numbers and gonorrhea remained at alarming levels, especially among blacks, officials said yesterday.

Former president Bill Clin-

ton's charity should stop

taking foreign donations

to avoid any conflict of in-

terest with his wife Hillary

Clinton's work as secretary

Clinton was expected to

be confirmed easily as the

top U.S. diplomat, but Re-

publican and Democratic

lawmakers raised the issue

of her husband's charita-

ble fundraising as she testi-

fied before the Senate For-

eign Relations Committee.

Indiana, the panel's top Re-

Senator Richard Lugar of

of state, a top Republican

said yesterday.

Blacks make up 12 per cent of the U.S. population but account for about 70 per cent of gonorrhea cases and almost half of chlamydia and syphilis cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

New infections

 When all STDs are considered, including human papillomavirus and herpes simplex viruses, almost 19 million new infections occur each year in the U.S., the CDC said.

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are easily diagnosed and treated, but frequently have no symptoms and remain undetected. Syphilis is less common than the

CRIME New York state's top legal officer said yesterday his office is investigating frauds perpetrated on

Fraud investigation begun

by N.Y. attorney general

charities caught up in the scandal of accused swindler Bernard Madoff.

"We are looking at frauds on charities and people who may have defrauded charities" in the Madoff case, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said.

"I don't want to comment on who we are investigating or not by name," he said, adding that the probe was "not looking at

Alleged victims

 Big banks, the wealthy funds and charities have all declared themselves victims of Madoff

Mr. Madoff" himself at this time.

Authorities say the veteran money manager, who was charged with securities fraud by federal prosecutors in Manhattan, confessed to a \$50-billion US investment fraud a month

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Comment & Views

Comment

Paul's Senate resumé

Columnist believes he was overlooked by PM Harper



Dear Mr. Prime Minister.

I see you have started appointing journalists to the Senate, and I think it's about time you put away those fussy old Reform party ideas about a so-called "Triple E" Senate and take to padding it with the same cynical relish as your Tory predecessor Brian Mulroney, who, in 1990, appointed eight senators in a single day in order to get the GST rammed through.

I'm just sending this note to let you know that I'm making myself available. I know you've got another round of appointments scheduled in March and I don't want to miss out.

Obviously, you didn't know I was available when you made your most recent picks. If Mike Duffy gets to climb into a nice cosy Upper Chamber seat and doze off, why shouldn't I be next in



Columnist Paul Sullivan is lobbying Prime Minister Stephen Harper for a seat in the Senate.

line? I mean, my qualifications are a match for his. And unlike Mike, I wouldn't need the extra chair.

Look, I'm at least as old as he is. Some would say washed up, but that's cruel and unkind. I prefer to think that I'm seasoned and experienced, like Mike.

Like Mike, I have the ability to form instant opinions out of thin air and communicate them wisely and

gravely. I can even do that little head move he has that simulates thoughtfulness. That's ideal in a senator, who can say or think whatever he or she likes knowing it will be ignored because no one ever listens to a senator.

Like Mike, I have absolutely no actual experience in government or governing, so I have no idea how hard it is for MPs who actually have to get elected by the popula-

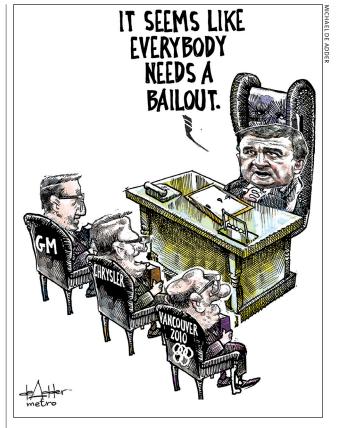
tion at large rather than get appointed by a grateful prime minister. I also have no intention of finding out.

I also understand the Senate meets for 90 days a year and senators can miss 21 of those days before any penalties apply, which means I only have to turn up once every five days or so and still get the \$130,000 per annum cash and perks. So I won't be hanging around getting in the way.

You can rest assured that I have never said or reported anything of any consequence that might embarrass you, so I am eminently qualified to cash in and I am more than willing to serve until 75, which, sadly, is only 17 years away. Time is of the essence! Don't worry about the collapse of the economy or the fact that your minority government is hanging by a frayed thread of national sufferance — the time is always right to hand out the pork to your real friends.

Yours in journalistic and parliamentary integrity,

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist



Letters

'Simple' solution to end problems in the Mideast

It is simple how the current problems in Gaza can be solved. Hamas can stop its deliberate targeting of Israeli civilians, which number more than 10,000 missiles in the past eight years and more than 500 in the so-called recent truce.

Israel will not have to finally respond and will stop

targeting the Hamas terrorists who hide amongst the Arab civilians of Gaza. The UN can assist by not employing Hamas members on its staff and allowing use of UN resources. After that, having seized control of Gaza by violent means, Hamas should concentrate on creating the theocratic state that it claims it yearns for.

MICHAEL BAIGEL, TORONTO

Matt

Word on the street: Do you think polygamy should be illegal?

Paul Sulyma age 25,

Edmonton

A: I think polygamy should be illegal because the whole premise of marriage is the union of two persons to the exclusion of all others.

Julia Chisholm age 28, Halifax

A: Maybe polygamy is a choice thing, but if you're under 18, you don't know the ramifications of what you're choosing — or what your family



Galen Winter age 27,

Edmonton

A: Yes, but no. Everyone has the right to freedom of religion, but should respect basic human rights and decen-

Odiana Kniaht

age 62, Toronto

A: I would say no. People are practising it anythat's way why divorce rates are sky high. It might keep more families together in a harmonious

John Baillie

age 72, Toronto

A: Yes, it should be illegal. It's against society and everything. It's disgusting.

Tram Danh age 19,

Vancouver

A: I think it should be illegal. Why should men have more than one wife? It's unfair and a double standard.

Souliman age 21, Ottawa

A: In our society, in Canada, I think it's not possible. I'm Muslim, I could have four wives, but I'm not going to because I'm west-

ernized.

Marina Sen age 19,

Vancouver

A: I think it should be illegal because of the repercussions women face if they choose to leave their community.

age 19, Ottawa A: I think it should be legal, but it all comes

Carruthers

down to the individual. If you want to have one husband and he has many wives, that's up to her. It all has to be consensual, course



S&P says risk rising for U.S. ratings

Standard & Poor's yesterday affirmed its "AAA" rating for 12 nations including Canada and the U.S. but said risks to the United States' top sovereign grade have increased. REUTERS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Toyota defies gloom

Dealers sell more vehicles than ever before

Toyota dealers across the country are smiling despite the turmoil in the auto industry.

While dealers for some manufacturers are struggling because of a big sales slump and too many stores, Toyota retailers sold more autos than ever last year.

Toyota's 239 dealers across the country sold an average of 875 cars and trucks in 2008, far more

"The success of their product was a key part of reaching this level."

Dennis DesRosiers

than any other company, statistics from DesRosiers Automotive Consultants showed yesterday.

It represented an 11 per cent increase for Toyota dealers from 2007 and a 68 per cent jump in average annual sales since 2000. The increase also marks the first time that an automaker has sold more than 800 vehicles per store in Canadian history.

"The success of their product was a key part of reaching this level," said DesRosiers president Dennis DesRosiers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Non-bank lenders get voice at talks

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is expanding his working group on credit to include other stakeholders, a move that gave non-bank lenders their first voice at the table.

An industry source said executives from individual banks, along with the Canadian Bankers Association, met with their counterparts from Desjardins, Canada's largest co-operative financial group, and Credit Union Central of Canada yesterday.

It was unclear whether the financial co-operatives would take up permanent seats or function as observers. Still, their invitation was another hint the federal government could take more action to bolster credit when it reveals its budget Jan. 27.

At least one automotive finance company is now expressing an eagerness to join the group. "Yes, certainly we would be interested in that," said Jelena Jelich, spokesperson for Chrysler Financial Canada.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nortel shares dive ahead of key date

INTEREST Shares of Nortel Networks fell more than 20 per cent yesterday, two days before it is due to make an interest payment of about \$107 million US.

Nortel, North America's biggest maker of telephone gear, had about \$2.3 billion at end of September, suggesting it would have no difficulty in making the debt payment.

Alitalia Back in the air

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dovrai fare il check-in al banco Air One.

In caso di un viaggio con più voli,
che include Alitelia.



A passenger gestures while checking in at an Alitalia desk at Fiumicino airport near Rome yesterday. Alitalia took to the skies as a revamped, privately owned carrier after nearly being grounded for good last year. Italian investors bought its best parts, leaving the rest to the Italian state.

Canada trade surplus hits 11-year low as oil plunges

Canada's monthly trade surplus shrank to its lowest level in 11 years in November as oil prices plummeted and demand for Canadian commodities and goods declined along with the U.S. economy.

The November trade surplus fell to \$1.28 billion, the smallest surplus since October 1997, Statistics Canada said yesterday, signalling the Canadian economy may have contracted

far more than expected in the fourth quarter.

Economists and policymakers expect the economy to have fallen into recession in the fourth quarter

Also, StatsCan sharply revised downward its estimate of the October surplus to \$2.25 billion from \$3.78 billion to reflect updated data on volatile energy prices and volumes.

REUTERS





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Florida State University defensive back Myron Rolle, left, will not enter this spring's NFL draft, opting instead to attend Oxford University in England for a year to study medical anthropology on a Rhodes Scholarship. Rolle plans to enter the 2010 draft. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



"I feel like crap ... I have a tough time dealing with it year after year."

Former big league pitcher Bert Blyleven, left, to ESPN Radio yesterday on being passed over for the Baseball Hall of Fame for the twelfth straight year. Blyleven compiled a 287-250 cord with a 3.31 ERA and 3,701 strikeouts in a 22-year career, mostly with the Twins.

Cole's trick leads way

NHL RESULT

Oilers 5 Capitals 2



THE SKINNY: The Caps had the second-best home record in the NHL with an 18-2-1 record at the Verizon Center. but the opportunistic Oilers made it four wins in their last six road games with five goals on just 23 shots, including Erik Cole's first hat trick as an Oiler.

THE QUOTE: "It's like every kid's dream," said Steve MacIntyre, who scored his first NHL goal in his 13th game to give Edmonton a 1-0 lead. "It was an unbelievable feeling. I don't score a whole lot."

THE BIG PLAY: It was already 2-0 for the Oilers when Gilbert Brule took a pass from Kyle Brodziak, cut to the net and tucked a backhand high past Jose Theodore for a three-goal lead 2:15 into the second peri-



Ladislav Smid, right, and the Capitals' Karl Alzner hit the glass after a check last night.

NETMINDERS NOT CLOSE:

Theodore had a tough night in the nets for the Capitals, as the Oilers 3-0 lead was built on just 10 shots. Not so Dwayne Roloson, who made 34 saves in his seventh straight start.

NICE HANDS: MacIntryre, a hulking 28-year-old rookie in the lineup for his fists and not his soft hands, scored on a screened snapshot to put the

Oilers on the board first at 12:59 of the first period.

HOME ALONE: Robert Nilsson (concussion) didn't make the trip east with the Oilers, but leading scorer Ales Hemsky, who has missed seven games with a concussion, is with the team and is listed as day-to-day.

HISTORY: Before this game,

the Oilers hadn't won in Washington since Kevin Lowe was in the lineup. That was a 3-1 decision back on Jan. 26, 1997. The Oilers were 0-5-0-1 since then.

THE NEXT GAME: The Oilers are in Minnesota tomorrow to take on the Wild.

> **ROBIN BROWNLEE/** FOR METRO EDMONTON

Decisions for NHLPA

he NHL Players Association intends to divulge before month's whether it will:

A) End its collective bargaining agreement with the NHL or extend it another two seasons;

B) Fire former superstar Eric Lindros as its ombudsman or retain him.

Hockey sources predicted in chats with Metro yesterday that the NHLPA will announce during festivities surrounding the allstar game in Montreal on Jan. 25 that its player representatives are choosing to extend the agreement.

The CBA that ended the 2004-05 NHL lockout gave the players the option to either terminate the existing agreement next September or extend it two more seasons.

The sources said players are not interested in a major labour battle during these troubling economic times, have already voted to extend the existing agreement and intend to enthusiastically announce their decision in Montreal.

At the same time, the sources said, the union might announce the firing of Lindros. They said his firing is possible because of a major division in the NHLPA over his contributions. Union executives won't publicly discuss Lindros but some say privately he's caused rifts and has improperly handled his job.

• During the NHL locksports networks picked up poker to fill air time and, years later, poker ratings remain high. But is poker a sport? I'm begin-

Sports in brief

Vincent Lecavalier has

Presse newspaper. "I

is not being shopped.

NHL Tampa Bay Lightning star

could be headed to his hometown of Montreal in a trade. "I

grew up with the Canadiens,

Lecavalier told Montreal's La

understand there are a lot of rumours ... but they are

rumours." Lightning GM Brian

Lawton told the St. Petersburg

Times Monday that Lecavalier

addressed rumours that he

York Report Marty York marty.york@metronews.ca

ning to think so, and I'll be profiling Canadian poker star Isabelle Mercier this week, but I'd like to know your thoughts. Email marty.york@metronews.ca to tell me if you consider poker a sport.

Incidentally, the mostsearched word on the internet in 2008? Poker.

Mike Benevides stunned the Argonauts recently by rejecting their offer to become Toronto's head coach, but his decision may well be a blessing for his predecessor with the B.C. Lions.

Dave Ritchie, who left B.C. before last season and was replaced as the team's defensive co-ordinator by Benevides, has been contacted by the Argos and has emerged as one of the top two candidates for the job. The other is Bart Andrus, an assistant coach with the NFL's Tennessee

If Andrus is chosen, the Argos will try to recruit Ritchie as assistant head coach and defensive co-ordinator. Ritchie, 70, spent 25 years in Canada as a head and assistant coach and his knowledge of the league could help Andrus, who has no CFL experience.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking in Canada for decades.

SCOREBOARD

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

EDMONTON 5 Washington 2 Boston 3 Montreal 1 Nashville 2 Toronto 0 Ottawa 5 Carolina 1 Columbus 4 Colorado 3 Minnesota 6 Phoenix 3 N.Y. Rangers 2 N.Y. Islanders 1 St. Louis at Calgary

Tampa Bay at San Jose

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Charlotte 80 Detroit 78 Cleveland 102 Memphis 87 Miami 99 Minnesota 96 L.A. Lakers 105 Houston 100 Atlanta at Phoenix Orlando at Sacramento



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Former Canadiens forward Michael Ryder, right, is hit by Mike Komisarek last night. Montreal lost



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NEED A MORTGAGE



MLB The Atlanta Braves have reportedly agreed to terms with right-hander Derek Lowe on a four-year contract. The Atlanta Journal-Constitu-



Lowe

tion is reporting the deal is worth \$60 million US.

CFL Former

Saskatchewan **Roughrider Trevis** Smith is applying for parole for

the first time since he was sent to prison in 2007 for knowingly exposing women to the virus that causes AIDS.

HOCKEY A northern Ontario community is in mourning after a teenage hockey player died following an on-ice collision. Sixteen-year-old Kristopher Meshake died on the weekend.

METRO NEWS SERVIC-



The sixth annual Ice on Whyte Festival is about to come to life. Five years ago the festival began as an idea of few and it has grown into Edmonton's premier winter festival. What began as a simple showcase of ice carving in partnership with the Sculptors' Association of Alberta has evolved into a competition sanctioned by the National Ice Carving Association.

The evolution of the past five years has lead us to where we are today; an 11 day festival which now attracts over 35,000 patrons, amazing carving teams and an outstanding line up of local entertainment.

ice carving competition

children's play area

ice castle & ice slide

van houtte café

live music









monday - friday 2 pm - 10 pm saturday & sunday 10 am - 10 pm

ADMISSION

\$2.00 per person - Children under 2 yrs. FREE

HEATED WASHROOMS

LEASHED DOGS (WITH BAGGIES) WELCOME thursday . january 15 - 2 pm - 10 pm Ice On Whyte Carving Competition

friday. january 16 -2 pm - 10 pm Ice on Whyte Carving Competition

saturday. january 17 -10 am - 12 pm Ice on Whyte Carving Competition **CAPITAL FM DAY**

sunday. january 18 CFCW DAY

monday. january 19 - 6 - 9 pm Northern Lights Folk Club

tuesday. january 20 - 6 - 9 pm members of the Edmonton Jazz Orchestra

wednesday. january 21 - 6 - 9 pm Contemporary Sounds, B'Scene Studios

thursday . **january** 22 - 6 - 8:30 pm Some Amazing Art, 1 Block Carving Contest Lantern Making Workshop

friday. january 23 - 6 - 9 pm B'Scene on Stage, Frozen Karaoke

saturday. january 24 - 12 - 4 pm **Edmonton Transit Historic Tours** Lantern Making Workshop

sunday, january 25 **SURVIVOR SUNDAY**

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ICE ON WHYTE SCHEDULE

he symphony of chainsaws and chisels gives way to the melodies of outstanding local music talent.

Ice on Whyte is proud to announce three amazing evenings of music. Please visit www.iceandwhyte.ca for more information.

SCHEDULE OF MUSIC EVENTS:

Monday, January 19 | 6 to 9 p.m.

Northern Lights Folk Club is proud to bring to Ice on Whyte an Under 22 review with CKUA's own Rhea March. This review will feature some of the best up-and-comers from the Alberta music scene.

Tuesday, January 20 | 6 to 9 p.m.

Members of the Edmonton Jazz Orchestra will be performing Jan 20th as part of the Ice On Whyte Festival. An All-star sextet led by Kent Sangster will heat up the tent with some hot jazz on a cool night. The EJO sextet will feature, Jim Head on guitar, Bob Tildesley on Trumpet, Craig Brenan on Trombone, John Taylor on bass, Sandro Dominelli on drums and Kent Sangster on saxophones.





B'Scene Studios presents:

Wednesday, January 21 | 6 to 9 p.m.

Brian Champagne is a popular homegrown singer/songwriter, often seen performing around Edmonton folk clubs and open stages. Brian always plays original compositions. His infectious pop melodies and roots grooves find listeners humming along by the second chorus. Catch a Champagne Moment at Ice On Whyte.

Amanda Khullar's performance at Canada Day's festivities got such rave reviews we couldn't wait a year to have back rockin' Old Strathcona. She'll be covering some of today's and yesterday's classic pop/rock songs.

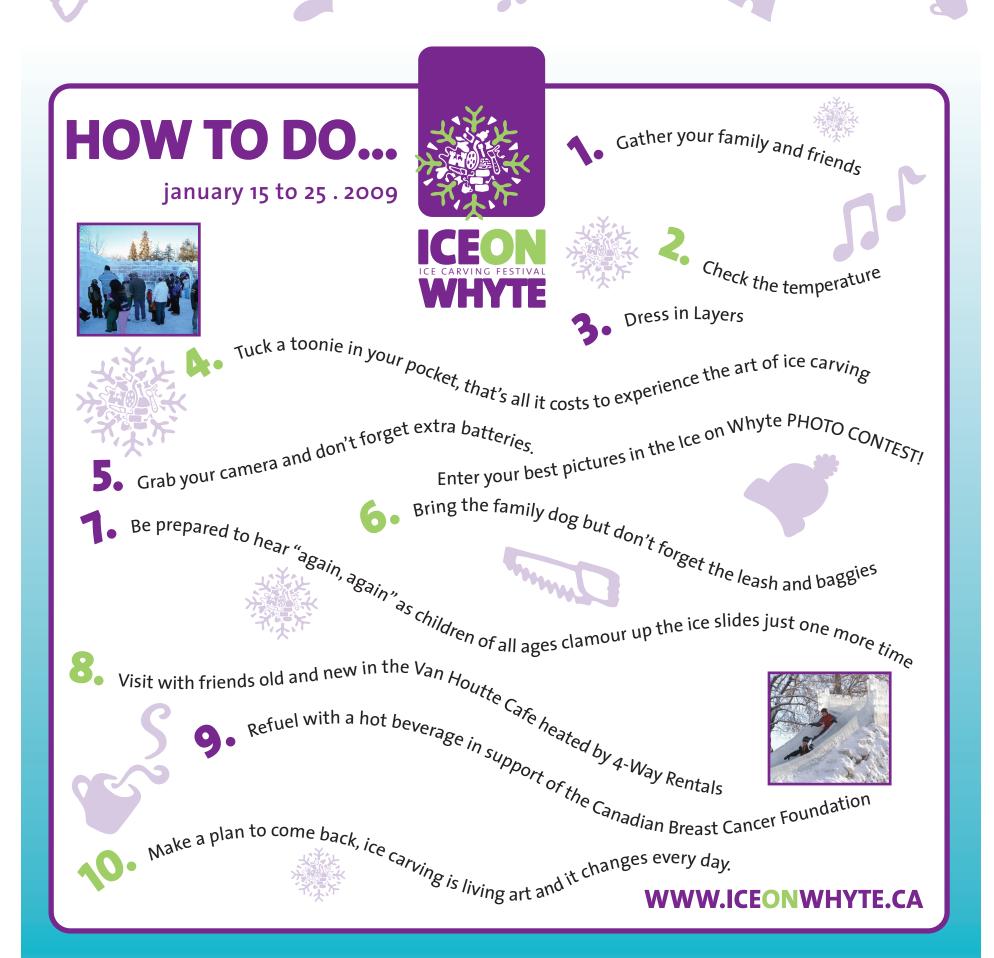
ANGELA EM is best known for her kickin' vocal style in rock/indie band Ormus. Over the years she's played tons of clubs and festival shows acoustically and electrified. Angela is also a vocal coach with unique cross styling teaching methods that give a boost to beginners and professionals alike.

Friday, January 23 | 6 to 9 p.m.

B'Scene on Stage with Frozen Karaoke. Todd Kuziw, host this evening of fun and laughter. Come B'Scene on stage at Ice on Whyte.

- source: Ice on Whyte







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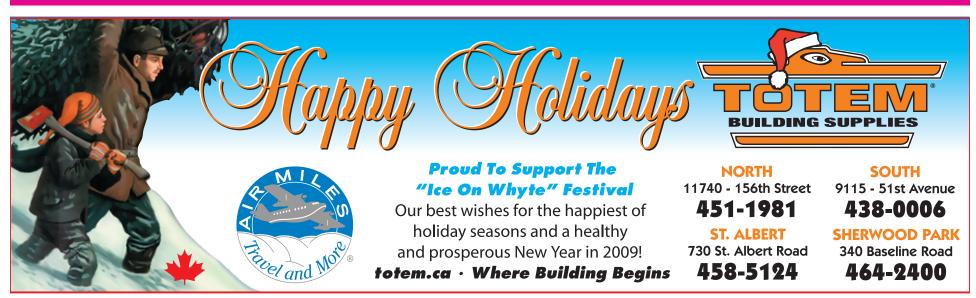
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Ben Henderson councillor Ward 4 ben.henderson@edmonton.ca | Phone: 780.496.8146 | Fax: 780.496.8113

Metro Drive

Honda Civic like hotcakes

Based on its all-time record annual sales of 72,463 units in 2008, Honda Civic became the first passenger car in 15 years to achieve status as the top-selling vehicle, including all cars and trucks, in Canada. The Civic also remained Canada's top-selling passenger car for an 11th consecutive year, outselling its nearest competitor by 14,727 units. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Hyundai's top creation

A look at the 2009 North American Car of the Year

People have the wrong idea of luxury. Luxury isn't heated seats, a sunroof or leather. It can't be defined by options lists, vehicle types nor engineering feats — nor with pedigree. prestige or presence.

Worse still, luxury becomes meaningless immediately when many people have access to it. Espresso in the morning used to be a luxury. Sushi used to be a luxu-

So did cottages, condos, bottled water, cellphones and designer handbags. Once you can buy it at the local mall, it's ubiquitous.

Hyundai knows ubiquitous. From the Pony to the \$9,995 Accent, for decades its electricity bills have been paid on the back of frugal and simple vehicles.

There's nothing groundbreaking about the Genesis' styling. Apart from the conspicuous absence of a Hyundai badge, of course. From some angles it looks like a Mercedes-Benz S-Class; other viewpoints bring out a little BMW 5-Series, Lexus GS, or Infiniti M. All of which are easily recognized as luxury vehicles, and admittedly the Genesis also

2009 Hyundai Genesis

Type: Luxury sedan **Price:** \$37,995–\$43,995 Engine: V6, DOHC 3.8L/ V8, DOHC, 4.6L HP: 290@6,000/375@6,550

Highlights

- Named 2009 North American Car of the Year at the Detroit auto show
- Value for money
- Impressive drivetrain

looks like it could be parked out front at the Four Sea-

The car's trump card is its drivetrain: Either a 3.8L V6 with 306 horsepower or a 4.6L V8 with 375 horses. All that power is channelled through — yes — the rear wheels. The V8 even has a limited-slip differential.

So-called the "Tao" V8, a Genesis so equipped can do 0-100 km/h in well under six seconds, and onto a 14.1-second quarter-mile time.

Credit goes to a near-perfect weight distribution and adaptive shock absorbers manufactured by Sachs which are standard on all



because the suspension

needs to sense the driver

wants to attack a series of corners, you need a certain absence of imagination to what will happen if the 1,817 kg car doesn't decide to stick. from Price ranges

\$37,995 to \$48,995, with the V8 starting at \$43,995. Standard on the V6 and V8 base models are: Six-speed automatic transmission, ABS with EBD, eight airbags, front active headrests, electronic stability control, air conditioning, leather seats, heated seats,



The award-winning Hyundai Genesis marks a major step for the South Korean automaker in its push to produce a more upscale, mass-market vehicle for North American consumers.

power locks, power windows, dual zone climate control, auto defogging system, proximity entry with smart key system, AM/FM/XM/MP3 stereo with six-disc CD player and seven speakers, iPod and USB/AUX-input, heated exterior mirrors and front fog

Which, if we're honest, is more than anyone could ever want — until you get to the \$2,000 premium which package,

things like a sunroof, larger rims, HID headlights, and front and rear parking sensors.

But wait, there's more. The \$5,000 technology package installs woodgrain trim, power rear sunshade, Lexicon 17-speaker audio system, cooled driver's seat, navigation system, back-up camera and adaptive headlights.

So does the car deserve its "Genesis" nomenclature to signify the start of a worldbeating, luxury car-making Hyundai?

It shows a viable future for Hyundai five to 10 years from now as a luxury car player.

CARGUIDE STAFF



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carguide



Toyota prices all-new Venza

MODEL Toyota Canada re-"We're pleased to offer the remarkable cently announced its pricing plans for the new Toyota Venza. With the choice of a

four-cylinder or V6 engine, both with starting prices below \$30,000, Toyota adds value as a key chapter of the Venza story.

We're pleased to offer the remarkable new Toyota Venza — the five-passenger vehicle that combines the best of sedan-like performance and comfort with SUV versatility," noted Warren Orton, director of Toyota Canada Inc.

"The Venza demands immediate attention, and with an attractive MSRP that starts at \$28,270, Toyota is inviting Canadian drivers to see for themnew Toyota Venza — the five-passenger vehicle that combines the best of sedanlike performance and comfort with SUV versatility."

Warren Orton, director of Toyota Canada

selves that this unique vehicle offers value, great performance and fuel efficiency with no compromise on innovative design and amenities."

The all-new Venza — designed and built in North America and sold exclusively to the North American market — is a new kind of vehicle that is ideal for active boomers and young families.

Regardless of engine

choice, the Venza does not compromise with a premium comfort interior, ample cargo space, towing capability, and front-wheel-drive or the added confidence of allwheel-drive.

The Venza comes complete with a generous complement of comfort and convenience features, from remote keyless entry to 60/40 folding rear seats easily stowed via one-touch levers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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14 metro drive

A new dance at Detroit show



he Detroit auto show, also known its more grandiose name The North American International Auto Show — is in full swing right now. But it's an awkward swing, like a 12year old boy with size 10 feet, dancing with his

Big auto shows usually have great atmosphere. Hard not to, I guess, when you've got world debuts of exciting vehicular creations, and very theatrical press conferences and displays.

The whole point of these auto shows, it seems, is a chance for the auto players to one-up each other, show a little swagger, and give us that

sizzle we so much like with our car steaks.

Put someone on a stage to be humble, however, and well, it's not great theatre. Unless of course, you were looking for tragedy or a train wreck. But we didn't get that, either. The 2009 Detroit auto show was not nearly as exciting as past years, or as entertainingly bad as some had hoped.

Even when someone had something cool to show the world, like VW did with its brilliant, minimalist, midengine roadster concept, it was done in the wake of a sombre speech by its chairman, outlining the company's commitment to "the show, the city, and the U.S. auto industry."

As you know, many of his import colleagues didn't show up. Many others decided to go low key, with simple displays and no "unveil."

Ford is the sole Detroitbased automaker that isn't dipping into government bailout money — for now at least. It seemed to revel in that position, with de-



Even breakthrough cars such as the Toyota Prius Pluq-In Hybrid were greeted with muted enthusiasm at the Detroit auto show in Cobo Center, columnist Michael Goetz writes.

cidedly more whiz-bang in its unveilings, and more strut to its stride, than exhibited by either of its U.S. brethren.

One of its introductions, the 2010 Ford Mustang Shelby GT 500, also gave us gear heads one of the few occasions to holler - not only is it a great 540-hp

boy toy, it exited the stage in Cobo Center via tire squeal. Some in the crowd actually squealed back, in delight no doubt, for putting a small dent in the political correctness warp shield that seemed to be in force around the whole show.

whooped or

hollered when Ford talked about its new Fusion hvbrid, or, later, when Toyota announced that its new Prius would return a combined fuel efficiency rating of 50 mpg, or when the Chinese automaker BYD, took the wraps off the world's first production plug-in hybrid (on sale in

China later this month).

But that's OK. This was not a show to stir the emotions; this was people trying to figure out a new

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type



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nter driving myths busted

through snow, sleet and black ice are enough to convince most drivers to hibernate this winter. But for those willing to brave the icy roads, Tracey Poulin, health and safety manager for FedEx, puts an end to a number of dangerous winter driving myths.

MYTH NO. 1

There is no difference

between all-season tires and winter tires.

FALSE — There are many different types of tires available for all kinds of climates conditions. When preparing for a change of season, consult the experts and have them recommend the most appropriate tires for your vehicle.

MYTH NO. 2

In winter, accidents usu-

ally happen during storms. **FALSE** — During a storm, drivers tend to drive a lot more carefully, but when the weather is good, people take more risks.

MYTH NO.3

Thanks to my anti-lock brakes, I can brake without danger, which isn't the case with traditional brakes. **FALSE** — The nature of antilock brakes means that stopping distances may be longer

than with traditional brakes.

MYTH NO. 4

Nothing beats a nice wide tire for driving in snow. **FALSE** — Wide tires tend to float on top of the snow, unlike narrow tires, which provide a better grip.

MYTH NO. 5

In winter you should keep your distance and leave at least five car lengths between vourself and the car in front when driving at 100 km/h.

FALSE — Transport Canada recommends leaving a distance of 10 car lengths when driving at 100 km/h in winter.

MYTH NO. 6

The letters M+S (mud and snow) on a tire show that it is a winter tire. **FALSE** — The letters M+S may also appear on all-season tires which, despite their name, are not recommended for winter driving.

NEWS CANADA



Telemark weekend

On the weekend of Jan. 24 and 25, telemark specialists and enthusiasts will gather at Le Massif in Charlevoix, Que., for the 13th annual event dedicated to the slide sport. There will be activities for everyone from beginners to experts; visit lemassif.com METRO NEWS SERVICES

15

Travel

Underwater photo contest

From March 9 to 14, Photo Sub 2009, an international underwater photography competition, will take place at the International Scuba Diving Centre in Isle of Youth, Cuba. The sub-aquatic contest will grant 17 awards in categories such as fish (turtle, octopus, squid), undersea flora and fauna, colours, works using flash, and so on. For more information, visit cayolargodelsur.cu/fotosub2009, cubatur.cu and cubatravel.cu.



TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Navigating Obama's Chicago

The U.S. president-elect's hometown haunts are worth checking out

EMMA E. FORREST Metro World News

Barack Obama sightings won't be quite so frequent in the president-elect's hometown of Chicago once he moves the wife and kids into the White House. But that doesn't mean you can't check out the Windy City in purely presidential style.

Where to stay: Budget

Hyde Park Arms Hotel: If you want to crash in Obama's South Side 'hood the lovely Kenmore-Hyde Park — the Hyde Park Arms is the way to do it on the cheap. It's a clean, safe hotel, providing just the basics. Rooms are leased weekly, bi-weekly \$145 monthly. From US/week; 5316 S. Harper Ave., 773-493-3500.

Mid-range

Hilton Chicago: The landmark downtown hotel is where Obama held his first press conference as the president-elect. The comfortable, classic hotel overlooks Grant Park, where he gave his election night victory speech. From \$98/ night; 720 S. Michigan Ave., 312-922-4400, hilton.

Deluxe

The Whitehall Hotel: The historic, surprisingly-large boutique hotel downtown is gorgeously appointed, restored meticulously to its original 1920s grandeur. It's



A view of the Chicago skyline. Visitors to the city can see where the Obama family lived, shopped, ate and socialized.

Presidential Inauguration

also a favourite of Obamasupporting celebrities. From \$147/night; 105 E. Delaware Pl., 866-753-4081, thewhitehallhotel.com.

What to see:

Kenwood-Hyde Park neighbourhood: Dominated by the beautiful campus of the University of Chicago (where Obama taught constitutional law), the president-elect's neighbourhood, Kenwood-Hyde Park, offers a fascinating collec-

tion of large homes from the late 19th century; the family resides in a large, red-brick home on Greenwood Avenue.

Learn about that Frank Wright-designed Llovd building you're gawking at by taking a walking tour of the area, guided by members of the Chicago Architecture Foundation (\$10, architecture.org). Afterwards, check out the Hyde Park Art Center, the oldest exhibition alternative space in the city; 5020 S. Cornell Ave., 773-324-5520, hydeparkart.org.

Sears Tower: Take in the whole of Obama's home-

town from atop the 1,450-foot Sears Tower, the tallest building in North America. On a clear day, visitors on the viewing deck can see for 40 to 50 miles over neighbouring states Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin, or just marvel at Chicago's stunning architecture; 233 S. Wacker Dr., \$12.95, 312-875-9696, theskydeck.com.

U.S. Cellular Field: It's almost essential that the American president is a fan of the great American pastime — baseball. Obama roots for the White Sox, who call the South Side's U.S. Cellular Field

home; 333 W. 35th St., Tel 312-674-1000, chicago.wh itesox.mlb.com.

Where to shop:

57th Street Books: This is where the president-elect liked to get literary. Now, of course, you can pick up an Obama-penned tome at this

cosy, independent South Side bookseller; 1301 E. 57th St., 773-684-1300, sem coop.booksense.com.

Urbanest/Anderonville:

Chicago is known for its fabulous design sense, and the eco-conscious Urbanest offers the best well-priced modern home furnishings in town; 5228 N. Clark St., 773-271-1000, urbanestliving.com.

Where to eat:

MacArthur's: In his book The Audacity of Hope, Obama reminisces about the turkey legs and dressing at MacArthur's, a soul food (they prefer to call it "fine Southern cuisine") icon in the city; 5412 W. Madison St.,773-261-2316, macarth ursrestaurant.com

Expensive

Spiaggia: The site of Barack and Michelle Obama's so-called first date after winning the White House, Spiaggia has views almost as impeccable as the service and cuisine; 980 N. Michigan Ave., 312-280-2750, visit online at spiag giarestaurant.com.

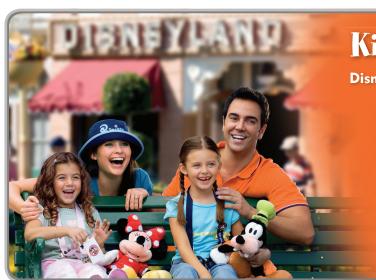
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Fun Sun Vacations / BC Reg.: 3522-1 / A5429-A / Issue: Jan 14/09 / As to Disney photos, logos, properties: © Dis

Howie Mandel was hospitalized in Toronto on Monday with an irregular heartbeat, his publicist said. The 53-year-old comedian was in Canada taping his new show Howie Do It. He was released yesterday. msn.com

Entertainment

CSI quest star

Howie hospitalized

star in an upcoming episode of **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** Taylor will play Haley Jones, a teen whose family runs a seedy Vegas motel. msn.com

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Patrick Swayze battles Beast

TV Those who tune in to tomorrow's premiere of The Beast on A&E for purely macabre reasons will



Swayze

come away disappointed. Patrick Swayze may be

battling cancer, but you wouldn't know it to observe the actor's performance as a loose-cannon undercover FBI agent in what is otherwise a fairly standard-issue cop drama.

As for that bracing performance by Swayze, forget Dirty Dancing and think Dirty Harry. Playing a fed who is out of control, his performance is edgy, disturbing and all-involving. The Beast works far better than last year's homegrown A&E hour The Cleaner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Every dog has its day

Canines have never had such a presence in family-based entertainment

STEVE GOW for Metro Canada

Thor Freudenthal might possibly be the most ironic person to direct the new family comedy Hotel for Dogs.

"I'm personally kind of a cat person but I found that putting a camera on a cat makes the cat look bored," said the director while promoting the film recently in L.A. "Dogs are always participating in something, they're so expressive and I think that's why they're great for the screen.'

There's no disputing that argument. From Marley & Me to last year's Beverly Hills Chihuahua, canines have never had such a presence in family-based entertainment. For Freudenthal, the reason became clear while making Hotel for Dogs, which opens in theatres this Friday.

"There's this bond unlike any other bond between a dog and a human being," said Freudenthal. "There's that innocent quality to them that has no agenda but to please us or give love in a way."

"It's a common interest too," added star Emma Roberts. "Even if two people are completely opposite, you can bond over (dogs). It's a common interest that's a simple bond."

In the film, Roberts plays a foster child who, along



Emma Roberts and Jake T. Austin star in Hotel for Dogs, which opens in theatre on Friday.

with her brother (Jake T. Austin), discovers an abandoned hotel and transform it into a majestic home for all the homeless mutts they can manage. But that doesn't mean things were

With over 60 dogs running around, each with their own individual trainer, making Hotel for Dogs would be considered anything but domestic bliss.

"We did have a couple of especially friendly on-set. instances where we had a lot of them in one room and there was either a little fight breaking out or somebody got a little too hungry," laughed Freudenthal.

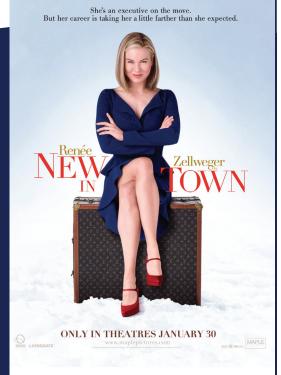
"We had to do a lot of ADR work, which is, we had to overlap our lines," "Either added Austin. there was barking or trainers yelling or Thor, the director screaming, giving direction."

Head trainer Mark Forbes would attest to the manic filming conditions. Having also worked on Marley & Me, he insists the greatest attribute for making dog movies is patience. "It just takes time and the crew, they're used to (doing) three or four takes. With these guys, sometimes it takes 10, 15, 20 takes to get it right so just everybody being so patient is what got both of these films made so well."

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Taking Bollywood global

CHRIS ALEXANDER for Metro Canada

can viewers.

Even though it has remained the world's most prolific filmmaking machine for over 50 years, the wild world of the Bollywood movie is generally unknown to most mainstream North Ameri-

Chandni Chowk to China aims to change all that. The epic, big budget kung-fu comedy - it opens Friday marks the first time major U.S. studio Warner Bros. has co-produced a completely Hindi-language picture (other studios Fox, Sony and Disney have similarly begun investing in such ventures)

and expectations are high. "This is a very big deal for Bollywood films because it exposes us on a global level," says Bollywood superstar and Chandni Chowk to China lead actor, Akshay Kumar.

American and British cinema has incorporated elements and trappings of the Bollywood style for years (Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire stands as a recent



Akshay Kumar expresses himself in Chandni Chowk to China.

commercially and critically successful example) but Chandni Chowk to China is the real deal.

In it, Kumar stars as hapless Delhi veggie slicer Sidhu who, mistaken for the reincarnation of a legendary warrior, is whisked away to China to do battle with an evil crime boss named Hoio — played by Kung Fu movie icon Gordon Liu.

Not only is CC2C the biggest internationally exposed Indian film in history — with over 140 prints in North America alone – but its production also marks the first time any movie from any country has been allowed to film on the ancient Great Wall of China.

"Not only did we shoot on

the wall," says Kumar, "but we were, kicking, jumping and throwing people around with cables and cranes. It was incredible and a great privilege.'

In true Bollywood fashion, Chandni Chowk to China runs almost three hours and is packed to the bursting point with slapstick comedy, maudlin drama, jaw dropping action, heart throbbing romance ... and of course, those outrageously colourful, slickly choreographed musical numbers.

'In a Hollywood movie, emotions are shown subtly but in a Bollywood movie, when somebody feels love, we go on to a bridge and dance and yell 'I love her and she loves me so lets have a song.' We're loud that way."

Sick star stays on the job

Law & Order: SVU star Mariska Hargitay has a partially collapsed lung, but won't miss any work, according to her rep. **PEOPLE.COM**



entertainment **17**

Upcoming season shaping up

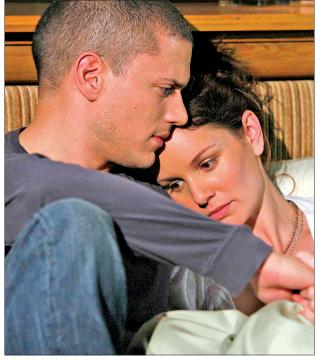
IntelleVision



WHAT'S NEXT: The next few months in TV are starting to take vague shape with a few announcements from networks, including the return of Ray Romano to primetime in a "dramedy" exploring the midlife crisis of a group of fortysomething buddies.

The show, titled Men Of A Certain Age, was greenlit for an initial 10 episodes by TNT according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter, and will also star Andre Braugher (star of Gideon's Crossing, a shortlived spinoff of The Practice) and Scott Bakula. Think Bromance with a lot of prostate jokes.

Fox will be bringing back 'Til Death with a full 22-episode order for next season, a surprise revival of the sitcom that will bring the show's total to more than 80 episodes —



Cancelling Prison Break at the end of the current season is hardly unexpected.

enough to bring it to syndication, according to a TVGuide.com story, though only seven of the current season's episodes aired when it disappeared from the air in October.

Which reminds us of the rule that the only thing

about Fox you can trust is its unpredictability. Cancelling Prison Break at the end of the current season is hardly unexpected, however — the show long ago exhausted its premise, which was never more than miniseries-sized. "The

show is just played out," Fox entertainment president Kevin Reilly told the Hollywood Reporter. "Creatively everybody feels enough stories have been told ... we want to finish strong and not just gimpout next season."

Reilly did say that a few extra episodes could be shot to pad out the four remaining set to air. The network has a new animated comedy from Arrested Development creator Mitch Hurwitz, Sit Down, Shut Up, ready to take over King Of The Hill's Sunday evening slot when that show leaves the air in April, and high hopes that they can make Friday night a testosterone-friendly one when they pair up Joss Whedon's troubled Dollhouse with Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles.

It might just work, if Reilly can convince Whedon's geeky fan base that going out of Friday night is for jocks, or break their TiVos if they insist on having a social life.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

As strike vote looms, SAG may drop top negotiator

The national executive director of the Screen Actors Guild, a lightning rod for criticism during the stalled contract talks with the studios, is on the way out as chief negotiator.

The union's national board met in Los Angeles on Monday, with moderate members appearing to have enough votes to strip Doug Allen of his negotiating power. But by early yesterday, a ballot had yet to be conducted, said a SAG spokeswoman.

According to insiders, union moderates were confident they would also be able to dissolve the negotiating committee and kill a proposed strike-authorization vote.

The guild has been locked in a stalemate with the studios, represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers (AMPTP), for more than six months over a new TV and film contract. The old pact expired on June 30.

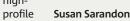
Among several objections to the proposed deal, Allen, national president Alan Rosenberg and a majority of the negotiating

politics

• Even the union's upcoming awards show fell victim to the internal struggles over the weekend, when an

e-mail
was circulated
urging
members
not to
vote for
such

nomi-



nees as Alec Baldwin, Steve Carrell, Susan Sarandon and Kevin Spacey, who oppose strike authorization.

committee oppose the terms for work in new media, terms that the other Hollywood unions have accepted.

But without a strike-authorization vote in their arsenal, SAG leadership would have few options but to send the studios' final offer to its membership for approval.

REUTERS

In **brief**

ONLINE SERIES O.C. creator Josh Schwartz plans to make good use of the indie rock bands appearing in his upcoming online endeavor Rockville, putting their entire exclusive performances online.

COURTS Warner Bros. and Fox are "close" to reaching a settlement regarding their Watchmen lawsuit, according to sources. A judge has ruled that Fox has distribution rights to the superhero film, which is scheduled to be released by Warners March 6.



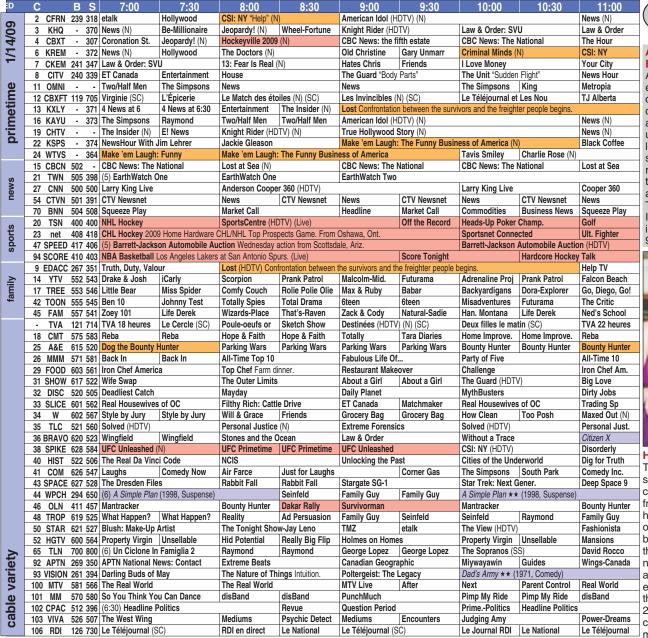


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critics'corner_

Anna and Kristina's Grocery

Authentic, schmauthentic. Foreign cuisine evolves when it crosses oceans and borders; chop suey, for example, is a North American invention unheard of in China. Nevertheless, some foodies are into staying as true to the cuisine's roots as possible. To that end, this new episode finds Anna and Kristina on their way to Tuscany to find out whether the Italian cookbook they're reviewing is full of truly Italian recipes. 9 PM on W



Hockeyville 2009

This series is a pageant of sorts, with communities as the contestants. Cities and towns from around Canada put their hometown pride and their love of hockey on display in hopes of being chosen the most worthy of the name Hockeyville. The winner gets a makeover for its local arena and plays host to an NHL exhibition game. In the premiere, the hosts are introduced, the top 20 contenders are chosen, and celebrities share their hockey memories. 8 PM on CBXT

18 entertainment



Carnie Wilson can get the personalized pillow ready — she's already picked her new baby's name, five months ahead of the impending delivery. "It's Luciana — but we'll call her Lucy," the singer tells The Bonnie Hunt Show. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Rourke may have taken steroids, website alleges

alleging that Mickey Rourke may have taken steroids for his role in The Wrestler, quoting a magazine article as proof.

The website alleges the actor has revealed he piled on the pounds for his role as Randy (The Ram) Robinson in the acclaimed movie — which earned him a Golden Globe award on Sunday — by eating up to seven meals a day and training hard with an Israeli cage fighter.

But the website adds Rourke may have had additional help creating his hulking physique. When asked if he

used steroids to bulk up, Rourke told Men's Journal magazine: "When

I'm a wrestler, I behave like a wrestler," the website alleges as proof.

The twice-divorced actor recently admitted he could empathize with his character's struggles because of his own turbulent life.

years in the Hollywood wilderness — said: "Randy has been in the twilight of his career for several years. He thinks he has one more game in him — one more shot. He wants to come back again.

"I know what that feels like. Randy was somebody 20 years ago and so was Mickey Rourke. When you used to be a somebody and you aren't anybody anymore, you live in what my doctor calls a state of shame. Hollywood is a very unforgiving place, but I

took a nosedive all by myself, no one pushed me."

METRO NEWS

Gisele, Brady engaged?

The couple are discussing a

huge fashionista event in

the spring or a more inti-

mate and quicker ceremo-

ny in Costa Rica, where

Gisele — who has previ-

ously dated Revolutionary

Road actor Leonardo Di-

Caprio and professional surfer Kelly Slater — al-

legedly began her relation-

ship with Tom when he

was still romanti-

Gisele has a home."

RELATIONSHIP Gisele Bundchen and Tom Brady are engaged, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Brazilian model and American football star are set to wed after Brady got down on one knee and proposed with a diamond solitaire ring in Los Angeles on

Friday, the website says. Gisele's agent has refused to confirm the happy news, saying: "We don't comment on our clients'



Perry laments on heartache

Wilson has baby name nicked out

PEOPLE Katy Perry let all her emotions hang out during an acoustic set at L.A.'s Hotel Cafe Monday night, people.com reports.

"It hurts right now," People quotes the singer as saying about her recent split with boyfriend Travis McCov.

"When you breakup with someone you move on," she said. "You don't really want to move on ... but you have to because they don't give you any choice," she added before declaring, "But I'm over it!"



Renée too busy for men

PEOPLE Renée Zellweger is too busy to have a boyfriend, femalefirst.com is reporting.

The actress doesn't have time to concentrate on romance because of her hectic acting and promo-

tional schedule. Renée, 39, told Marie Claire magazine: "I'm not single, I'm busy. That's my line. The thing is, I'm away all the time. I suppose if I sat still long enough to get to know

somebody be-

yond a dinner

"But I don't feel like my life is empty or that I have to make something happen. I have projects to de-

Renée has previously dated actors Jim Carrey and George Clooney and White Stripes singer Jack White. She then married country singer Kenny Chesney in 2005, but the marriage was annulled four months lat-

er.

METRO NEWS

Cyrus wants to wed DiCaprio

PEOPLE Though she may be famously dating underwear model Justin Gaston — and is only 16 teen superstar Miley Cyrus has her sights set on a new

According to Britain's Daily Star, while talking about going to the Golden Globes, Cyrus said, "I saw my husband, Leonardo Di-

Caprio. I didn't meet him. He doesn't know I'm his wife, but will be one

METRO NEWS **SERVICES**

Divorce gets ugly for Rutherford

DISPUTE The divorce action tered in L.A. Superior between Gossip Girl star Kelly Rutherford and her estranged husband has turned ugly, with the actress seeking to bar him from leaving the United States with their two-yearold son Hermès for fear they'll disappear, people.com reports.

The website says estranged husband David Giersch counCourt with papers

alleging the acwho's months pregnant with their second Kchild, has a bad temper, once throwing a laptop at him and another time trying to him with her fist.

Rutherford, 40, filed for divorce from Giersch, an entrepreneur, last month after being married a little over two years, seeking sole physical custody with monitored visitation. On the same day, Giersch filed for legal separation, seeking sole legal and physical custody with visitation for her, people.com says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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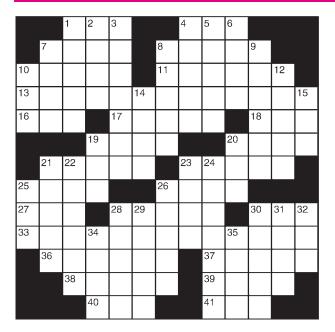






Take Five

Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1		9			8	3	
8				4		6		7
9				6				
	4	2			5		6	
				2				
	7		3			2	5	
				3				8
7		9		1				3
	5	3			8		2	

Crossword across

- 1 Ventilate
- 4 Be a couch potato
- 7 Peru's capital
- 8 Partook at a banquet
- 10 Man of morals?
- 11 Invest officially
- 13 Not mincing words 16 — out a living
- 17 Find
- 18 Water barrier
- 19 Cohort
- 20 Actress Sorvino
- 21 Diarist Samuel 23 Some silverware

26 Strictly entre —

25 Go limp

- 27 Blackbird
- 28 Off the perpendicular
- 30 Upper limit
- 33 Childhood game played
- in a circle
- 36 Buccaneer
- 37 Not as plentiful
- 38 Eldrick Woods
- 39 Sicilian spouter
- 40 Witness
- 41 Kid's query

Crossword down

- 1 Supermarket section
- 2 "No harm done" 3 Apace
- 4 Esthetic taste
- 5 Finish 6 Paraphernalia
- 7 Plumbing problem
- 8 Pooch 9 Small antelope
- 10 Noshed
- 12 Approaches
- 14 Rock guitarist Lofgren
- 15 Singer Sumac
- 19 Likely
- 20 "- Doubtfire" 21 Centerfold, maybe
- 22 Draw forth

- 23 Traditional music style
- 24 Got too big for 25 Bankroll
- 26 More pleasant
- 28 Old saw
- 29 Private student 30 Hackneyed
- 31 Cruising
- 32 Apiece
- 34 Singer-actor Kristoffer-
- son 35 Swearword

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

Α	В	Ε	Т		S	Р	Υ		Т	0	S	S		1	6	5	3	8	4	9	2	7
Μ	E	М	0		1	L	0		Α	0	Ν	E		_	_	_	_	_		_	_	_
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Ν	Ε	0	Ν		Т	0	Υ		S	Е	Х	Υ		9	5	4	2	1	7	8	6	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU	SOLVE	TIME:

- Under 13 minGenius
- 13-17 min.....Scholar
- 17-21 minSmart 21-25 minNot bad 25+ min.....Keep practising

Salmon pizza with yogurt

and dill **INGREDIENTS:**

2 small skinless salmon fillets, about 3/4 lb (375 g) in total

Metro Recipe of the Day

- 2 large tomatoes 1 small mild white or red onion
- 2 thin 10-in. (25-cm) unbaked pizza crusts Salt and black pepper 8 sprigs of fresh dill 6 oz (170 g) Greek yogourt To serve: 4 tbsp (60 ml) mango chutney, optional

METHOD:

- 1. Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Remove bones from salmon fillets, then dice flesh.
- 2. Rinse, dry and finely chop tomatoes; peel and finely chop onion. Place pizza crusts on baking trays; spread tomatoes and onion over each. Arrange salmon on top and add

salt and pepper to taste.

- 3. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until lightly browned, swapping trays around half way through.
- 4. Rinse and dry dill. Set aside a few sprigs for a garnish, finely chop remainder, and mix into yogourt, with some pepper.
- 5. Remove pizzas from oven, spoon some yogourt over each and garnish with reserved dill.
- 6. Cut each salmon pizza into quarters and serve two portions per person, accompanied by mango chutney, if using. **SERVES 4**

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on



AVATAR VENUS

Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20 You'll increase your confidence

level. You'll smile through an ecstatic meeting. A playmate appeals to you for understand-

LIBRA **SEPT 23-OCT 23**

A friend's clowning around should be encouraged. A seedy guy needs a helping hand. Lively people will have you pleading for rest.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

Move to a calmer and healthier place. Your ability to listen is enhanced. Don't get caught looking for a brilliant romance.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

A rewarding message arrives in the afternoon. Honesty is the key in a compromise. A liar wins a game by telling the truth.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

Someone's modest secrets are about to be revealed. Scandaltalk will cause a dispute. Fearlessly adapting to new conditions takes time.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

A lucky break cheers you up. Better info comes from an endearing woman. Someone will pester you with a cunning plan.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

A cheeky cheerleader gets a payback. Displeasure forces a decision to be made. Unfaithfulness causes difficulties in a love life.

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

A protector has told a lie. A trail of evidence leads to a revelation. An ethical person will give you peace of mind.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

A door opens to a blast from the past. A passionate message is too tiring to deal with. Make an effort to avoid painful ailments.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

Someone will take the flack for you. A friend is on the verge of asking for help. Somebody will show you the way to make progress.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

Your favourite visitor is arranging a flight. A new supporter bites off more than he can chew. Someone gives you the upper hand in a deal.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

You can start to set realistic goals. A humble person is a good organizer. Be kinder to an absentminded individual.

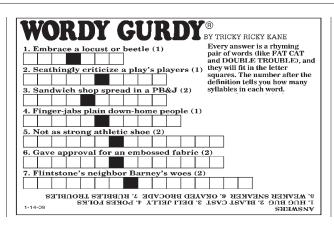
This day in history

JAN. 14, 1501: Martin Luther, age 17, enters the University of

JAN. 14, 1943: World War II: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill begin the Casablanca Conference to discuss strategy and study the next phase of the war.

JAN. 14, 1999: Toronto, Ont., Mayor Mel Lastman to be the first mayor in Canada to call in the Army for shovelling perhaps the highest recorded amount of snow in Toronto History. CORRECTION: Japan apologized for forcing Korean women into sexual slavery during World War II in 1992. The wrong year appeared in yesterday's This Day In History.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





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With Biothera's Laser Weight Loss Management Program (LWL™)

What is LWL™?

Biothera's Laser Weight Loss Management is a complete system combining the benefits of cold laser technology along with a comprehensive nutritional program. Not only will you shed those unwanted pounds naturally without drugs, pills or side-effects, but you will look and feel better... all with one on one weight loss support with one of our Program Coordinators.

How Does Cold Laser Help You Lose Weight?

LWL[™] treatments stimulates your metabolism thereby helping your body to use food more efficiently instead of storing it as fat. In addition, your appetite will be suppressed. LWL[™] is also highly effective in relieving stress, which in turn will help alleviate food cravings.

To find out more about LWL™, simply call one of our clinics or better still make an appointment for a no-charge consultation.





West End Medical Building Suite #202, 9509 - 156 Street Edmonton, AB T5P 4J5 780.483.0729 edmonton@biothera.ca









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